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ACTION
is assigned to

ARA

United States Senate

November 8, 1976

Respectfully referred to:
Mr. Robert J. McCloskey
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
PLEASE REPLY TO: 1616 Federal Building
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
FROM: SEWELL, REV. JOHN M.
ATTN: Miss Linda Strine

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full
☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

1976 NOV 15 PM 10 24
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FADRC
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

John M. Sewell
U.S.S.

Form #2

RE: CONCERN OVER ATROCITIES IN ARGENTINA

80F178
22/185

(3)

CATHEDRAL OF MARY OUR QUEEN

146981

AYBC

Reverend Charles K. Riepe
Rector

Associates

Rev. Monsignor John F. McGlone
Rev. James M. Sterner
Rev. John T. Grega

OCT 18 10 37 AM '76

October 14, 1976

The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510.

Dear Senator Mathias:

I read with increasing distress articles such as the enclosed. I also understand that Argentina (as well as other countries under similar military regimes) benefits from U.S. aid directly and/or indirectly. I also understand that many of their leaders have been trained in our schools of military tactics.

Such actions on the part of any nation are unconscionable and should invite at least the moral suasion of this country that these actions cease. Where on the other hand we are actually supporting such regimes and even their formation, I believe our reaction should be much more strong. This is not only in keeping with our own philosophy as a nation, but also in line with the sad lessons of history so painfully and recently learned from Vietnam.

I earnestly request that you or your office inquire into the details of this enclosed report and use your influence to have the United States apply the pressure at its disposal to terminate such atrocities.

Thanking you for your attention to this request and complimenting you for your own stand in conscience in so many issues, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

(Rev.) John M. Sewell
Rev. John M. Sewell
Associate

80F178

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201-422-8800

Armed men abduct Irish priest in Argent

Buenos Aires (AP)—An Irish Catholic priest was abducted by armed men while conducting a prayer meeting in a Buenos Aires slum area, the Irish Embassy said yesterday.

The reported disappearance Monday of the Rev. Patrick Rice, 31, of County Cork, Ireland, was virtually certain to cause new friction between Argentina's military regime and the church. Neither the Argentine police nor the military had any comment yesterday.

At least 10 Catholic priests have been murdered by presumed right-wing extremists this year. Two priests kidnaped from slum areas last May have not been heard from since.

"We have expressed the official concern of

the Irish government to Argentine authorities over the case because of the recent incidents of violence against the church and against priests in Argentina," said an embassy spokesman.

Pope Paul VI, receiving a new Argentine ambassador to the Vatican last month, deplored what he called "the blind violence" that has wracked Argentina in recent times.

So far this year, at least 1,047 persons have been killed in political violence, 853 since the military ousted President Isabel Peron in a coup March 24.

The religious kidnappings and murders have apparently been aimed at priests considered to

be of leftist affiliation, especially "worker priests" who live among the poor.

The embassy spokesman said that the members of Father Rice's Brothers of Charles de Foucauld, who provide religious service Monday night in a slum called Villa Soldati. The priest was on the road to the international airport.

Father Rice, who has been in Argentina for six years, had been living in a slum as a carpenter as part of a mission taken by members of his Brothers of Charles de Foucauld, a missionary group based in Marseilles, France.